

**NEWS
RELEASE**

The Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Anderson Fire & Police Departments
and
Indiana State Fire Marshal

For Immediate Release

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ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL FIRE UPDATE

Investigators complete their work at the scene.

ANDERSON, IN – Richard A. Rawlins, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Jerry Quire, Chief of the Anderson, Indiana Fire Department, along with M. Tracy Boatwright, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Ed Leonard, Chief of Police, Anderson Police Department announced today the completion of the on scene investigation of the fire that damaged Anderson High School, 1301 Lincoln Street, Anderson, IN on June 25, 1999.

Chief Quire said, "The ATF National Response Team members and Indiana State Fire Marshal investigators have completed their assignments at the fire scene and will be departing for their home offices on Friday. They have taken countless photographs, numerous samples from the scene, and conducted a large number of interviews throughout the community. The ATF National Laboratory will analyze the samples collected. The information developed will be reviewed and analyzed to assist in determining the cause of the fire. We will continue to provide information to our partners as it is developed by local ATF agents."

Mr. Rawlins said, "ATF and Fire investigators have completed their examination of the fire scene, but are awaiting laboratory examination of samples collected at the scene and the completion of other investigative activities to make a final determination. The area of origin has been identified for this fire and all known accidental or natural causes have been eliminated to the satisfaction of investigators."

Mr. Rawlins said, "The fire that damaged Anderson High School was a serious fire and posed a significant risk to the lives of firefighters and other innocent people. I urge anyone with information to call their nearest ATF office or the ATF toll free hot-line, 1-888-ATF-FIRE (1-888-283-3473).

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Indiana State Fire Marshal M. Tracy Boatwright said, "I am impressed with the cooperation exhibited by all agencies involved in this case. State, local and federal investigators worked as a team to try to come up with answers under difficult and trying circumstances. I would especially like to thank the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for its quick and impressive response."

All the investigators offered a special thanks to the Salvation Army and the Anderson Office of Emergency Management for the logistical assistance provided to the investigation since the fire on June 25, 1999.

Those with information may also call the Anderson Area Crime Stoppers at (765) -649-8310 or the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Tip Line at 1-800-382-4628. Callers can remain anonymous and all calls are confidential."

The Anderson Police Department, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Indianapolis based ATF agents will continue the investigation of the fire.

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For more information visit these web sites:

www.atf.treas.gov/columbus

www.state.in.us/sema